

Open to <sup>the</sup> <sub>New</sub> Shades



Sukhothai



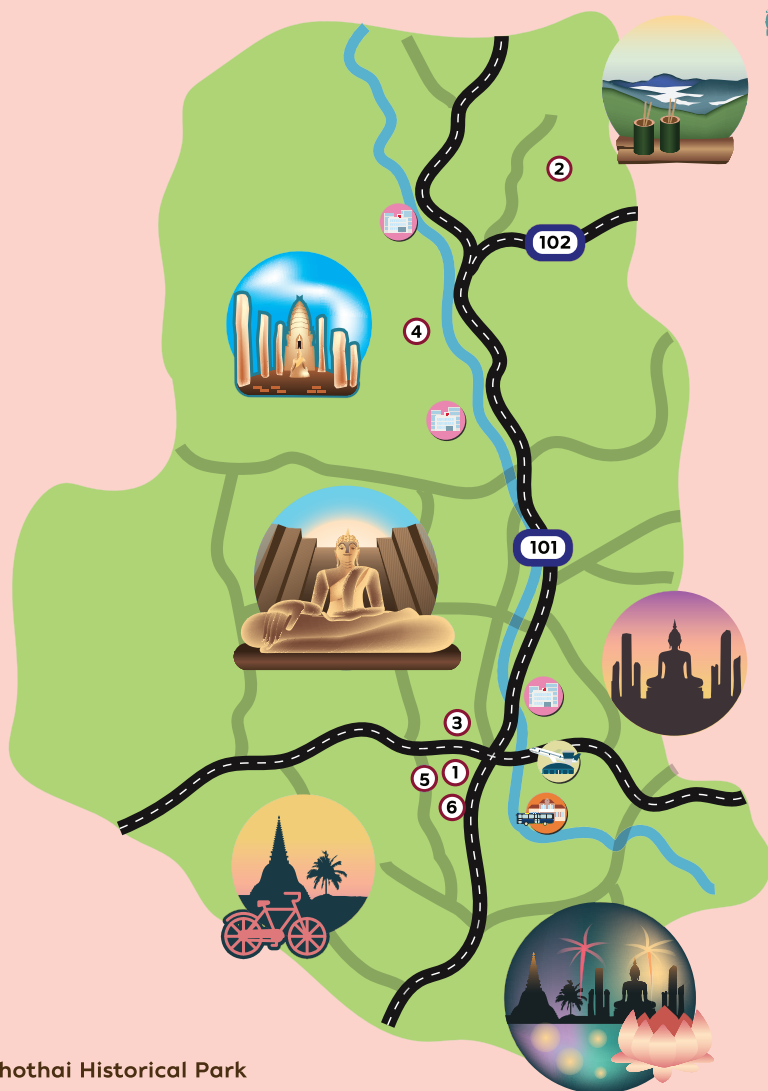
# Sukhothai

Established in around 1237-1257, Sukhothai is located 427 km. north of Bangkok, and literally means "Dawn of Happiness."

For 120 years as the capital of Thailand, Sukhothai was ruled by many kings, the most dynamic being King Ramkhamhaeng the Great, who created the Thai alphabet, laid the foundation for politics, monarchy and religion, and expanded the Kingdom's boundary of influence.



# Sukhothai



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# 1 Sukhothai Historical Park

In Sukhothai's golden era, this city was the centre of south-east Asia and the ruins from that glorious time have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. The park is home to ruins of royal palaces, Buddhist temples, and historical monuments, and the remains of ancient moats, walls, and city gates form a rectangle shape.

A significant feature of the complex is Wat Mahathat. Inside this temple is a grand pagoda surrounded by another 8 pagodas in the shape of a lotus, and at the front gate, a giant Buddha statue called Phra Atha Rot.



## 2 Cycling in Sukhothai Historical Park

One of the best ways to explore this archaeological site is by bicycle. There is a rental bike service in front of the Historical Park. Contact Visitor Centre, Tel: +66 5569 7241.



## 3 Wat Si Chum



This temple houses a large monumental stucco Buddha image in the attitude of subduing Mara called “Phra Atchana”, which is 11.3m in width. The roof has already disintegrated, exposing just four walls of stuccoed bricks. In the days of the Phra Ruang Dynasty, to boost morale of the ancient soldiers, monks walked through a hidden passageway and address people through a hole, making them believe the voice they were hearing was actually the Buddha.



## 4 Si Satchanalai Historical Park

A visit to Sukhothai wouldn't complete without a visit to the historical site of the ancient Si Satchanalai City, the second largest city after Sukhothai during its golden days. The park is home to ruins of palaces, temples and domestic dwellings. Main attractions include Wat Phra Si Mahathat, Wat Chang Lom and Wat Chedi Jet Taew, all of which feature authentic Sukhothai architectural style. Opening hours: Daily 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.



## 5 Ban Na Ton Chan Homestay

Ban Na Ton Chan Homestay is located in Tambon Ban Tuek, Amphoe Si Satchanalai. Here you can experience the villagers' way of life and their crafts. Khit cloth weaving in the ancient 'Dok Phikun' floral pattern, mud-soaked cloth making, basketry, wooden toys, and furniture made from tree roots and stumps. Visit the stray elephant nursing centre and seasonal fruit orchards. Reservations: Mr. Sa-ngia Sawaenglap, Chairman of the Ban Na Ton Chan Homestay Group, at Tel: +66 8 8495 7738, +66 8 9885 1639.



## 6 Loi Krathong and Candle Festival

Loi Krathong and Candle Festival is held annually on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month at the Sukhothai Historical Park. Activities during the festival include krathong or banana-leaf cup floating, a fireworks display, local games, processions, and traditional performances that reflect the lifestyle of the people as described in the stone inscription, as well as, a light and sound presentation.







## How To Get There

### By Car

From Bangkok there are two routes:

1. Take Highway No. 1 and then Highway No. 101 via the provinces of Nakhon Sawan and Kamphaeng Phet. Continue via Amphoe Phran Kratai and Amphoe Khiri Mat towards Sukhothai. The total distance is 440 km.
2. Take Highway No. 1. And after 50 km., take Highway No. 32 via Amphoe Bang Pa-in T-junction in Phra Nakhon Sawan. Continue on Highway No. 117 for Phitsanulok and then Highway No. 12 for Sukhothai. This route is 427 km.

### By Bus

Daily air-conditioned or fan-cooled bus service from Bangkok Northern Bus Terminal (Mo Chit 2) on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road to Sukhothai. The journey takes 7 hours. Contact the Transport Company Limited, Tel. 1490 [www.transport.co.th](http://www.transport.co.th). Sukhothai Bus Terminal, Tel. +66 5561 3296.

Private bus services provided by: Win Tour, Co., Ltd., Tel. +66 5561 1039, Bangkok office Tel. +66 2936 3753, and Phitsanulok Yan Yon Co., Ltd., Tel. +66 5530 2021, +66 5525 8941, Bangkok office Tel. +66 2936 2924-5

### By Train

Daily service from the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) to Phitsanulok. From there, take a local bus to Sukhothai, about 59 kilometres away. Contact: Travelling Service Unit, State Railway of Thailand, Tel. 1690, +66 2220 4444 [www.railway.co.th](http://www.railway.co.th)

### By Plane

Bangkok Airways operates daily flights from Bangkok to Sukhothai. Bangkok Tel. +66 2265 5678, 1771 Sukhothai office Tel. +66 5564 7224-5, [www.bangkokair.com](http://www.bangkokair.com). Thai Airways offer Bangkok-Phitsanulok flights daily. Bangkok office Tel. +66 2356 1111, +66 2288 7000. From Phitsanulok, transfer by car to Sukhothai. Phitsanulok office Tel. +66 5524 2971-2 [www.thaiairways.com](http://www.thaiairways.com).



[www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org)